

## Timber Supply and Timber Management

### ***Key Message:***

*The Revised Plan provides timber products as a result of achieving the desired vegetation conditions specified in the Plan. Timber products (an output, or what is taken from the forest) occur as a result of managing vegetation to achieved desired conditions (an outcome or what is left on the forest). Timber harvest will be the primary tool for reaching vegetative objectives. While other tools such as prescribed fire or mechanical treatments may be used, timber harvest is often the most effective and economical tool available. Although clear cutting remains an important silvicultural treatment, the Revised Plan reduces the emphasis on clear cutting and increases use of other stand treatment methods.*

### ***The Plan:***

- *Sets desired conditions and objectives for timber management. Consistent, sustainable and dependable levels of timber harvest are called for.*
- *Classifies approximately 945,000 acres of national forest system lands as suitable for timber production on the Superior National Forest.*
- *Classifies approximately 459,000 acres of NFS lands on the Chippewa NF as suitable for timber production.*
- *Establishes the Allowable Sale Quantity (the maximum amount of timber that can be sold from suitable lands on the Superior NF within the first decade) at 1.02 billion board feet. This is based upon treatment of approximately 131,000 acres in 1<sup>st</sup> decade to achieve vegetative objectives.*
- *Establishes the Allowable Sale Quantity (the maximum amount of timber that can be sold from suitable lands on the Chippewa NF within the first decade) at 580 million board feet. This is based upon treatment of approximately 77,600 acres in 1<sup>st</sup> decade to achieve vegetative objectives.*
- *Provides for a non-declining, even flow of timber products into the future.*
- *Ensures a mix of forest products, species, and sizes are available to local mills.*
- *Reduces the emphasis on clear cutting when compared to the 1986 Forest Plans.*

**Allowable Sale Quantity** (ASQ) is the maximum amount of timber that can be sold in a decade from suitable timber lands on the National Forest. The ASQ figure is derived based upon reaching the vegetative objectives called for in the Forest Plan. In adjusting the ASQ to better approximate anticipated yields, we do not anticipate any conflict between vegetative objectives and ASQ. (Reaching the ASQ limit prior to treating the acres anticipated to meet the vegetative objectives). We will monitor the volume derived from actual sales and the accomplishment of vegetative objectives and adjust either or both if necessary.

**Changes From the 1986 Plan and the Proposed Plan (2003)**

<b>Superior National Forest</b>	<b>Revised Plan</b>	<b>1986 Plan</b>	<b>Proposed Plan (DEIS)</b>
<b>Allowable Sale Quantity (volume Per decade)</b>	1,020 MMBF	970 MMBF	830 MMBF
<b>Acres of land suitable for timber management</b>	944,908	645,035	956,504
<b>Percentage of Clear cutting</b>	63%	98%	71%
<b>Other Even-aged (Shelter wood, Partial cut 30 BA reserve)</b>	16%	<1%	18%
<b>Uneven-aged Treatments</b>	12%	<1%	6%
<b>Thinnings</b>	9%	<1%	5%

<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Revised Plan</b>	<b>1986 Plan</b>	<b>Proposed Plan (DEIS)</b>
<b>Allowable Sale Quantity (volume Per decade)</b>	580 MMBF	790 MMBF	500 MMBF
<b>Acres of land suitable for timber management</b>	459,313	479,032	461,013
<b>Percentage of Clear cutting</b>	38%	69%	59%
<b>Other Even-aged (Shelter wood, Partial cut 30 BA reserve)</b>	15%	Not available	9%
<b>Uneven-aged Treatments</b>	38%	Not available	26%
<b>Thinnings</b>	9%	Not Available	5%

*In applying the yield models and in selecting an allowable sale quantity, the RF has been careful to not create a barrier to accomplishing an array of objectives and goals and to maintain a focus on outcomes. As with all goals and objectives, we will continue to monitor harvest activities and yields from timber sales and if we find that yields differ greatly from what we have projected, we can look at amending the Plan.*